

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 1, 2006 considered claims 1-22. Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Rempell (US 2004/0148307) hereinafter *Rempell*, in view of Teague, "DHTML and CSS for the world wide web," hereinafter *Teague*.¹

As a preliminary matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic communications of December 27 and December 29. As per the Examiner's suggestion, the claims have been rewritten.

By this paper, claims 1-23 have been cancelled, and new claims 24-36 have been added such that claims 24-36 remain pending, of which claims 24, 35, and 36 are the only independent claims.

The claims are generally directed to decorative panels which are displayed by using cells of software tables. The tables have attributes for the individual cells specified such that cells of software tables appear as a cohesive unit forming at least a portion of the decorative panels. To prevent a designer from having to manually update each individual cell when changing the appearance of a decorative panel, methods of and systems for automatically updating attributes in individual cells to change the appearance of a decorative panel are claimed. For example, claim 1 recites displaying a decorative panel by displaying elements in a software table according to attributes specified for visually related regions of the decorative panel such that elements of the software table are displayed as a cohesive unit forming at least a portion of the decorative panel. User input is received specifying a change in the appearance of the visual properties of the decorative panel. Changes in the appearance of the visual properties of the decorative panel are mapped to cells in the software table. Attributes of the cells are automatically revised to correspond to the changes in the appearance of the visual properties of the decorative panel.

The art cited in the present Office Action appears to be generally directed to formatting web pages, but does not appear to disclose the software table based method of displaying and

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

revising decorative panels claimed by the claims as now presented. In fact, the references cited do not appear to address tables other than in a very general context. As such, no further discussion of the cited art will be included in this response. Rather, Applicants would prefer to facilitate the Examiner's expeditious review of the newly presented claims by referencing portions of the specification supporting the newly presented claims.

For example, claim 1 finds support throughout the specification, but with particularity at Figure 3A and the text on page 9 beginning at line 16, at Figure 3A and the text at page 9 beginning at line 21, at Figure 3B and the text beginning at page 10 line 21, at page 14 beginning at line 21 and page 15 beginning at line 23. Pages 3-4 also generally support the subject matter claimed in claim 1.

Claim 24 finds support at least on page 15 beginning at line 23.

Claim 25 finds support at least on page 15 beginning at line 24.

Claim 26 finds support at least on page 14 beginning at line 21.

Claims 27-30 find support at least on page 15 beginning at line 7.

Claim 31 finds support at least on page 19 beginning at line 6.

Claim 32 finds support at least on page 19 beginning at line 16.

Claim 33-34 find support at least on page 12 beginning at line 3.

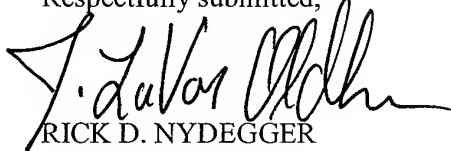
Claims 35 and 36 find support at least on page at least at those locations specified above for claim 24.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 1st day of February 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lavar Oldham", written over the printed name "RICK D. NYDEGGER".

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